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NEW-YORK, MONDAY, MARCH 3.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign.-The British forces entered Tokar on Saturday. —— Irish meetings in London were watched yesterday. —— The Porte has refused permission to establish a French college at Beyrout. - An infernal machine exploded in Ber-Mr. Bradlaugh has sent a letter to Sir Stafford Northcote in regard to the former's exclusion from the Commons. Domestic .- Fire destroyed buildings and con-

tents in Utica yesterday morning valued at over half a million. - Rookwalter is said to aspire to succeed Henry B. Payne, if the latter is elected President. - Detectives are looking for \$1,500 taken from express packages in Ohio last month. Reports show the new Federal building in Chicago to be poorly ventilated. === Cotton weavers at Utica have struck. The Quincy and Cleveland ball clubs both claim C. M. Hackett for manager. - The election in the 11d Congressional district of Kansas for a successor to Dudley C. Haskell has resulted in a defeat for free trade. ____ A desperate criminal in the l'enitentiary at Joliet, Ill., fatally assaulted the deputy warden and was twice shot before he could be subdued. ____ A young man was assassinated Saturday evening on a street corner in Hazelton, Penn. A railroad war between the Georgia Central and East Tennessee systems is imminent. CITY AND SUBURBAN .- A member of the Madison Avenue Congregational Church refused to take the communion wine from Deacon Foster's hand yesterday. ___ Mr. Beecher denied that he was going to Europe, = Rassell Sage made a statement concerning the Lackawanna fluery. === Felix Adler continued his lectures on Tenement House Reform. - The Rev. Mr. Ward lectured on the history of the Episcopal Church in America.

THE WEATHER-TRIBUNE local observations indicate clear weather, followed by cloudy or partly cloudy weather and chances of light snow and higher temperature. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 24°; lowest, 18°; average, 2058°.

Governor Abbett, of New-Jersey, in hopes that he might thereby read his title clear to a seat in the United States Senate, succeeded last week in getting his corporation-tax bill passed by the Assembly. Neither he nor his friends. however, have any idea that this radical measure will be approved by the Senate ; in fact they seem to desire it to fail there, so that while the corporations will not be provoked by an unfair law, the anti-corporation people will be pleased by Mr. Abbett's efforts to get one through, This is a clever trick, but it is too old to work. It looks now as if the Senate would find a fair substitute for the measure, which can pass both houses. That would be a disappointment to the Abbett men; but a majority of the people in New-Jersey doubtless would approve such

General Graham has promptly followed up his victory in the desert and has captured Tokar, a stronghold of the rebels. The insurgents made a stubborn defence at points along the march, but they fled like sheep from the town. They must be convinced by this time that the British soldiers are not made of the same stuff as the Egyptians whom they have been putting to flight so easily during the last few weeks, Osman Digma, their principal leader, may still make trouble for General Graham; yet the latter's success will be of great service, not only in quieting the tribes on the Red Sea littoral. but in strengthening the position of General Gordon at Khartoum, Gordon needs help of some kind. He has lost a part of his old influence with the people about the capital of Sondan, and the authorities at Cairo seem to be trying to add to his difficulties by declaring that his mission will be

whose Bank bill has passed the Senate, would support as a necessary complement of that bill can get all the popular vote they have any measure a removal of the tax on bank circulation. No competent person, so far as we know, has indulged the hope that this or any similar bill would attain the end desired without such removal of the tax. Alone, the McPherson bill would do good, of course, just as a dinner for one would do some good if divided among a dozen

appears to oppose the repeal of the tax. Why ould it not be repealed at once ?

The first chance which any of the voters of this country have had to express their opinions of the Free Trade issue thrust upon them by the Democratic party occurred on Saturday in the Ild Congressional district of Kansas, when a successor to the late D. C. Haskell was to be chosen. When Mr. Haskell was elected he had a plurality of about 4,000; but the ballots cast for him were 1,225 less than the combined opposition vote made up of Democrats and Greenbackers. This year the opposition united on one man, Mr. Riggs, and the Republicans nominated Mr. E. H. Funston. So confident were the Democratic leaders in Kansas and Washington of electing their candidate that they took pains to make Free Trade the sole issue, hoping by a victory to get great gain for their party at large. The result was a disastrous defeat for them, Mr. Funston being elected by over 4,000 majority. This must be a terrible blow to Mr. Morrison and Mr. Carlisle, and a secret satisfaction to Mr. Randall, who says, "I told you so." For the Republicans, of course, it is a great victory, one full of meaning. Does it look as if this country was yearning for Free Trade ?

Considerable space has already been given in the columns of THE TRIBUNE to the publication of facts showing the need of a better system for trying customs-revenue cases in New-York. At present these actions go to the Umted States Circuit Court in this district, where they are subject to great delay. Various devices for relief have been suggested, two of which have been already described at length in THE TRIBUNE-the appointment of more Circuit Court Judges, or the establishment of an intermediate appellate court between the Circuit Courts and the Supreme Bench. To-day the views of the Chamber of Commerce are presented. This body desires to take the revenue cases entirely away from the United States Circuit Courts and to place them in the hands of Judges of the Court of Claims, who are said to have considerable unoccupied time. Each of these plans has its advocates, who present so many arguments in support of their ideas that it is difficult to decide between them. The simplest remedy is more Circuit Court Judges, and yet it arouses great opposition. Whether it is best or not, therefore, seems to be one of those things which Congress ought to find out.

THE ROOSEVELT BILL IN THE SENATE. As the day draws near to settle the fate of the Roosevelt bill depriving the Aldermen of their power over the Mayor's appointments, the facions and bosses, whose influence and authority are menaced, are using every means in their power to secure its defeat. It passed the Assembly by a decisive vote. It will come up in the Senate on Wednesday, and the attitude of every Senator toward it will be watched with the keenest interest by the people of this city. Senators who go counter to the will of the people in this matter may profitably reflect on the fate of certain opponents of the Street Cleaning bill not long ago.

Rarely is there a bill in the Legislature which has so strong a backing of public sentiment. This has been shown by the press, by the great meeting at the Cooper Union and by the committee of our best citizens which is now working for it. The respectable classes in this community are thoroughly disgusted with a Board of Aldermen made up so largely year after year from the dregs of the dramshops. It is the lowest, the vilest, the most depraved elements of city life which govern the selection of our Aldermen in many of the districts. This Roosevelt bill is a attacking the Ministry of Commerce, by inculstraight, sure blow at the strength of the worst influences and combinations in our politics.

It has been objected that if the bill becomes a aw, after next January the "deals" and tricks in demanding investigations of public scannals and buying and selling, which now make the hail of our Aldermen a place of shameful and | cellor, explain the enmity which has followed him cajole and wheedle and seduce instead of the body of twenty-four. There is little force in this. The Aldermen are too often recruited from the grogshops and from other debased and contemptible sources of supply. The ward politicians who choose the candidates for the Democratic factions do not consider character in their choice, unless to make sure that it is bad enough for their purpose. But our Mayors come from a different class. The most insolent and unscrupulous of factions does not venture to put forward as its candidate for Mayor a politician of the stamp which it finds best suited to carry out its schemes in the Common Council. We can fairly rely upon it that our Mayors will be men of respectability, especially when the citizens realize that upon the Mayor is to rest a genuine responsibility, and that he will, hereafter, determine by his selection of heads of departments whether the community is to be

governed well or ill. The Roosevelt bill should pass the Senate promptly and by a strong vote. Its progress toward becoming a law should not be clogged by any amendments whatever. Here is a simple, single, clear, definite, positive measure of relief. The author of the bill did not scatter his fire. He sought to accomplish one important result and to accomplish that by the most direct and effective means. Amendments and delays can only serve hostility to the proposed reform. The proposition to submit the measure to a popular vote in this city should not be entertained. This is not a Constitutional Amendment, whose adoption must be hedged about with every possible precaution and must be reached with painful deliberation. The abuses which this bill is intended to sweep away are open, notorious, abominable. They can be removed speedily and effectually in this way. The people have full authority to settle this question there and now. They do not ask that every change in the city charter should be referred back to them. Let the Senators have confidence in themselves and in the powers which their constituents have conferred upon them. Then if the opponents of this reform think they can count on public support, which assuredly they cannot, let them make this an issue in the election of Assemblymen this year. The next Legislature can repeal the act It has been assumed that Senator McPherson, | if the people demand it, By making this an issue in the campaign the enemies of the Roosevelt stomach for.

BISMARCK AND GERMAN PARTIES.

The Lasker episode has ceased to interest Americans. It is regarded as too trivial an incident to affect the relations of two great nations. It serves to remind national legislators starving men, but it would not arrest the contrac- of the futility of making any incursions in the tion of circulation. Thus far, Congress does realm of foreign politics, even when they are not seem to have taken any steps toward influenced by generous motives. That is the removal of the tax. The House Committee of only moral to be drawn, so far as Americans are Ways and Means has been occupied with the concerned. The intensity of feeling with which tariff question, it is true, but it would not take the affair continues to be discussed by the Germany minutes to agree upon a simple bill for man press tends to emphasize this moral. It is the repeal of this altogether unnecessary and a distinct political issue which the Reichstag can average age was about thirty-two years. These matter a moment's attention? As matters Union has already sent through its Executive

for the tribute of respect paid to one of its the United States has been already discussed in Congress. Similar expressions of appreciation and gratitude may be expected from the Fatherland, accompanied by displays of partisan spirit. The House has unwittingly involved itself in an episode of foreign politics.

It is important on this account to ascertain what were Herr Lasker's relations to the Imperial Government. He has been described as a leader of the Opposition. This is not strictly accurate, since in the Reichstag there is neither a Government nor an Opposition party, in the sense in which such bodies are organized in the British Commons, or in other national legislatures. The Ministry is not dependent upon snap his fingers in the faces of the Deputies by political combinations, now of Liberals and Conservatives, and again of Conservatives and to lift a hand against this law. Catholics. If the majority cannot be secured, it is not a matter of serious import. The Chancellor loses his temper and makes some cynical remarks regarding the uselessness of national debating clubs. The defeated measure is introduced at the next session, and a new political opposed to the Chancellor vote against the Government one day and support it the day after, and the factions nominally in alliance with him exercise the same privilege.

Herr Lasker's political career virtually opened in 1866, when he aided Herr von Bennigsen in founding the national Liberal party. This was the organization which gave unyears possessed a nominal majority in Parlia-Fatherland cordially approved of the Chancel-Lasker was during that period a political ally of the Government, and the forces opposed to curred in 1878, when the national Liberals rejected the first anti-Socialist bill; but they subsequently voted for the measure in a modibeliever in the Hebrew faith, and was indiffer-Catholicism in Germany. His interest had been against the Chancellor.

This retrospect reveals the curious fact that during four-fifths of his political career Herr the Chancellor, it was not during the period when he could in any sense be said to have been a leader of the Opposition, but during the twelve years when he was voting with the Govself obnoxious to the Court and to Bismarck by exposing the Northern Railway scandal, by ites, and by driving negligent and corrupt officials out of office. His boldness and eloquence while his party was in alliance with the Chan-

ONE YEAR OF CIVIL SERVICE REFORM. The Civil Service Commission has made its first report. It is only little more than a year since the Civil Service bill was passed. At that time the experiment seemed a curious and unimportant one to many who helped to set it going. The Republican party had just passed through the crushing defeats of 1882, which showed plainly that the more independent class of citizens wanted more affirmative action from it in the direction of reform than it had been showing. In obedience to this sentiment, the Civil Service bill was passed. A certain proportion of those who voted for it did so because they thought it was a politic thing to do, not because they had a real faith in the wisdom or efficacy of the competitive system, or wanted to see any change in the old methods of distributing offices. Even of those who were sincerely willing to give the idea a trial, because popular sentiment seemed to demand it, probably many believed the experiment would fail, and were the more ready to yield because they thought it would prove a mere passing whim.

Things have changed greatly in this short year. The competitive system is in successful operation, and is securely intrenched in the Government service. As appears from the report of the Commission, the system now governs appointments to 14,000 clerical places-a large proportion of the whole number in the Government service; and under the law it can be extended by a simple executive order just as rapidly as it is thought desirable to do it. Nearly 500 persons have been appointed under this system in the principal post offices and collectors' offices outside of Washington, and the appointments made, both in Washington and elsewhere, seem to have given satisfaction. sent Senators and Assemblymen to Albany with | There is no possibility of complaint that the examinations are not absolutely fair. The exvillers who were free with their predictions that the examinations would be managed so as to let in a goed Republican and somebody's friend " every time, must be compelled to admit now that no political opinions or personal affiliations can be taken into account under the elaborate provision made by the Commission for putting all applicants on an absolutely equal footing. A story has been floating through the papers, which we have every reason to suppose to be true, giving the experience of a friendless school-teacher in applying for a place through the competitive system. He entered the examination a stranger to every one connected with the Government, carried off the prize, was appointed, and soon after promoted, on his merits. A little more than a year ago, this forlorn applicant would have had no more chance of an appointment, no matter how well qualified he might have been, than he would have had of inheriting the crown of England. One of the most interesting statements made

by the Commission is that about sixty-five per cent of all those who have been appointed through the competitive system had received only a common-school education, and that the stand, surrender of circulation goes on. No one Committee its congratulations to the House of Federal offices as stated in the testimony given one thing in which a music-hall is better than a

Representatives upon the passage of the Lasker | before the Pendleton Committee, and they add resolution. The minute expressing its thanks another to the items of proof that competitive examinations do not grind out "college-boy leaders and its best wishes for the prosperity of clerks, as some of the politicians have always been asserting. Among the good results of a year's working of the law is the diminution of political assessments, the office-holders probably feeling by this time that they are as free to refuse to contribute as any other class of citizens.

The work of the Civil Service Commission for its first year is one of which the Republican party has the right to be proud, and which will help it before the more thoughtful class of voters this fall. The Democratic party is more open in its hostility to the system than it was at the time when the law was passed. In the very face of the Presidential election, bills have been introduced in Congress by Democrats to Parliamentary support, and the Chancellor can repeal the law. Can any one doubt what they would do after the election ? It speaks volumes even when all political factions combine against for the temper of the Republican party on this him. The Government majorities are obtained question that probably no Republican politician who thinks he has a future would dare

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Withdrawals of gold from the banks, the beginning of a war of rates between Northwestern roads, and the decision of Congressional committees to forfeit various land grants were combination is formed. The factions nominally part of the influences that tended to depress prices last week. "Buy when all is blue, and sell when all is serene," was the motto of an experienced person who might have made money last week. For the sickness of prices caused by events just mentioned was followed

by an unusually sharp rally. The specie exports, whether for speculative ends or not, became a reality and not a myth swerving support to Bismarck during the last week, for \$2,335,000 in gold and \$397,870 Austrian and French campaigns, sanctioned the in silver went out from this port. The withfundamental laws of the Empire, and enabled drawals from the Treasury, therefore, were not him to make war upon the Vatican in the Kul- wholly or even mainly due to the alarm about turkampf. This was the party which for twelve silver. Still it is the fact that the Treasury, notwithstanding all receipts from all parts of ment, and on behalf of the middle classes of the the country, lost during the week \$1,918,361 in gold, while increasing its hoard of useless lor's policy. As the leader of that party Herr | silver by \$854,605. Its principal receipts were by the redemption of its own paper promises; at the end of the week it had outstanding Bismarck's measures were ordinarily directed \$2,837,320 less gold certificates than on the by Herr Windthorst. The first rupture oc- preceding Saturday, \$288,430 less silver certificates, and \$1,389,928 less legal tenders. The feature especially needing attention is that, though the revenue exceeded the expenditures fied form. During the last five years they have for the week by \$3,451,922, the Treasury been opposed to Bismarck's economic policy and | nevertheless lost \$1,918,361 in gold. Most of to biennial budgets, and have been disposed to lits receipts were merely in redemption of its deprecate the repeal of the May laws, but on own promises. Compared with January 1st. other questions they have frequently voted the state of the Treasury is \$11,000,000 with the Government. Herr Lasker was a con- weaker as to gold owned, and in exchange for stitutional lawyer, and took little interest in the gold lost it has \$1,800,000 less legal tenders financial questions. He was also a sincere outstanding, and holds \$9,100,000 more silver. In other words, its receipts have exceeded its ent to the struggle between Protestantism and payments \$2,900,000, and yet it has lost \$11,000,000 in amount of gold owned. It lukewarm in recent questions of the day on | would be perfectly easy for Secretary Folger to which his party as a faction in opposition voted | restore public confidence completely, by ceasing to treat silver as an available part of the public reserves.

The wrangles between Northwestern rail-Lasker headed the majority which supported roads do not seem to be governed in any high Bismarck's chief measures, and that he took a degree by a care for the interests of owners. subordinate part in the debates which have re- If the managers were engaged in a war against cently occurred. If he incurred the enmity of their stockholders, one could comprehend the policy which some of them seem to be pursuing. But the traffic at this season of the year is naturally so light that a war is apt to be like the battle near Trinkitat, more noise than erument. This is the fact. He rendered him- bloodshed. The companies will force each other to some amicable settlement sooner or later, and in all probability before the traffic begins to be important enough to make a war of rates very pating one of the Chancellor's political favor- deadly. From other points, the news in the railroad world is generally as satisfactory as could be expected; the floods in the Ohio have done no serious harm to transporters, the storms have interrupted traffic in various parts of the country, but not more than they do detestable traffic, will be transferred from the beyond the grave and converted a well-meant nearly every winter; the earnings generally twenty-four men to one man; that the bosses if ill-advised and unnecessary compliment from show gains; and the decisions of the Supreme and factions will then have only the Mayor to a foreign legislature into an international Court of Tennessee in the tax cases and of the Attorney-General of California in the Central Pacific case remove causes of disturbance. At Washington the butchering of Mr. Reagan's bill in Mr. Reagan's Committee, the disemboweling of Mr. Morrison's bill in Mr. Morrison's Committee, and the prospect that bills assailing lawfully earned land grants will not pass, are

the chief features. People who sold property that did not belong to them had another lesson last week. In the Lackawanna case, the financial graybacks who enjoy dancing on other people's graves and betting on the rain of the country were reinforced, according to report, by members of a pool who tried to get out before the rest. Both had to pay, and the outside public regards their losses with complacency. As for the property, it is really worth exactly what it was before any excitement began, and a road that reports clear profits of 14 per cent with the iron business at its worst point is not entirely valueless. Purchases strengthened Mr. Vanderbilt's roads also, with a good report from Lake Shore, and events already mentioned helped some other stocks. The main fact in the market, however, was that the people who had been selling most of the property for several days were in the position of the personage who once offered all the estate visible from the top of a high mountain, when he did not own a foot of it.

In the grain market great dalness prevailed, partly because of the weather, but the circumstance that buyers for export are still willing to let all Europe starve had its effect. Prices did not change much, but were rather lower. In cotton, with only moderate transactions, the price advanced an eighth; an unfinished flood was more potent than an unfinished strike. A few iron works started up, but no general improvement can be expected until it is definitely settled whether Congress is going to make war upon industry. The same uncertainty affects many branches of business, and under the circumstances, it is surprising that business is

SMOKING IN PUBLIC. At a Brooklyn theatre, thronged with a notably brilliant audience, an ultra-fashionably dressed man with a lighted eigar in his mouth attempted to pass in, but was informed by the ticket-taker that he must first dispose of the "weed," "But I sa-ay," he protested, "cawn't a gentleman smoke in the stalis? in Lunnon, ye know, they don't object." The other was obdurate, whereupon the smoker turned away, expressing to the ultra-fashonably dressed woman who accompanied him an intention of getting a "constable" to "teach the cad that a gentleman had some rights even in this blarsted country." After a few words with the policeman at the door, he returned minus the eigar, and passed into the theatre quietly, amid the smiles of the bystanders. Now, probably not even the most credulous of his

hearers believed his remark about London theatres. But the foreign mail brings us a striking proof of the fact that such a state of affairs would be greeted with delight by a considerable class. In Mr. Labouchere's London society journal, Truth, we read this surprising paragraph; "Most ladies like the smell of smoke; those who do not are behind the age, and would do well to accustom pernicious tax. Will not some member give the scarcely avoid debating seriously. The Liberal were almost exactly the same as the averages themselves to it. The modern unisance is not the shown by the appointments in the New-York smoker, but the lady who objects to him. The

theatre, is that smoking is allowed in all parts of it." Well, he would be a bold man who wrote thus about the ladies of this city. Perhaps Mr. Labouchere considers Americans "behind the age," in that we do not make our best play-houses more to resemble the smoky dives of the Bowery. Possibly he regards us as "nuisances," because we prefer to see Booth and McCullough and Modjeska not through clouds of cigarette smoke, or because by the help of Nilsson or Gerster we can endure to spend an hour or two without "pulling at a weed." If so, it is very sad; but we cannot help it. Whether or not Mr. Labouchere's screed be a libel upon the ladies of London, the ladies of New York still cling to the old-fashioned taste of preferring the fragrance of roses and jasmines to that of smouldering tobacco; and the gentlemen of New-York retain too much of old-fashioned politeness to stigmatize them as "nuisances" for so doing.

Both in this State and in Pennsylvania the Congressional districts are moving in the matter of holding their conventions to elect delegates to Chicago, and in cases where it has to be done through somewhat informal conferences, owing to the districts being new, there seem to be no insuperable difficulties in the way. Those who don't carry their points don't like it, but this is a country where the majority rules. The great point is to have the conventions held, and held fairly.

The Boston Post has cast the horoscope of the two days on which the Republican and Democratic National Conventions respectively are to meet, and has made several amusing discoveries. It seems that Venus represents the nominee of the Democratic party, because on the 8th of July she will be 'situated in the twelfth house." Unfortunately, when the convention meets she will have been 'retrograding" for three weeks. This circumstance, together with the fact that the moon, like the Democracy in recent years, will then be "in opposition," will "almost certainly lead to a factional fight." The Post's astrologer therefore decides that the "best and most available candidate will either decline the nomination or be defeated by tricky manipulation." All this is very sad, but it was hardly necessary to go to the stars to find it out. It is a plain enough terrestrial fact. Moreover, according to The Post the moon will be "posited in the second house" on the 3d of June, which shows that abundant funds will be forthcoming for the Republican candidate; white on the 8th of July, Mars will be "in bad square aspect with Saturn in the ninth house," showing that not only "is there likely to be a paucity of the essential munitions of war, but a corrupt misapplication of them." Most people would conclude from all this that the stars were not shining brightly for the Democracy. Not so The Post, which cries that victory can hardly fail to follow such a brilliant stellarum of planets. In the meanwhile it may be observed that what the Democracy needs most is to get votes rather than e made to see stars.

On second thought it has evidently 'occurred to The World that its effort to induce Mr. Morrison to fall in love with the platform on which Horatio Seymour was beaten out of his boots, was an uncommonly bad blander. Accordingly it now turns around and commends to Mr. Morrison the last Ohio Democratic platform. But this is another had blunder. For suppose Mr. Morrison, as a condition of adopting that platform as his own, should insist that its meaning be explained to him. What then? There isn't a man on the continent can tell what

"I don't care what you call the boy, wife, provided his name is James." Tammany doesn't care who the New-York Democrat is that is nominated for President, provided his name is Flower.

The defenders of Congressional apathy concerning the coast defences and the Navy say that in case of war our cities could be defended by torpedoes. But they say this in the teeth of the histori cal fact that torpedoes have never yet prevented the advance of a hostile fleet. The experience of the rebellion proves that they cannot be depended upon, that they are always liable to miss fire, or to drift from their moorings, or to explode prematurely; and a country that puts its sole reliance upon torpedoes as a means of protection and defence, trusts to a feeble resource.

One of the objects of interest at the Chicago Secand Fiddle will be the Samuel J. Randall Association. The members are to be dressed in their best-"full dress suits and white silk hats." It is not stated whether the fence they are to sit on in the interest of their patron is to be of inlaid mahogany or gold-plated wire.

The Philadelphia North American, in commenting upon an address lately delivered by Professor Summer of Yale, says "his defense of free trade is the merest tissue of arbitrary assertions and assumptions, linked together only by the stock phrase taxation and ignoring the all-important fact that it is the foreigner and not the American who has to bear the burden of the taxation in question." As an ignorer of the fact to which The North American refers, the Professor has few equals and no superiors. He never gives any quarter to a fact that has the assurance to come between him | bill. He is wrong, I think, about keeping the will's conand his free-trade theories.

The Bangor Commercial admits that the committee appointed to investigate the Copiah County outrages "has been instrumental in disclosing a state of affairs which no true American citizen can regard without regret or shame." The Commercial is a Democratic newspaper, but it has only to continue to talk like that to be read out of the party and pilloried by Democratic leaders as a pestiferous waver of the bloody shirt.

NOTES ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

EXPORTS FOR JANUARY.-The total value was only \$73,989,972, against \$80,380,253 in the same month of 1883. The three months, November-January, give an aggregate of \$229,400,000, against \$254,000,000 for the same months of 1882-'83. At the same time there is a large excess of exports over imports in value, assuming that the imports are correctly valued in official returns. In January this excess was \$19,677,487, in December, \$21,593, 142, and in November \$23,303,509. The small decrease each month is not important; the grave question is whether such returns can be considered accurate, in view of the recent course of exchange and exports of gold. That undervaluation of imports has been vastly increasing, particularly since foreign manufacturers began to market goods here by consignments and through agents rather than by sales, has often been asserted, and there is even strong testimony to sustain the assertion that the undervaluation has come to be a large per centage of the value of imports. Now, the reported value of emports for the three months ending January wa about \$\$164,000,000. A supposed increase of one-fifth, or 20 per cent, would cover a large part of the difference. Some balance has to be paid every month for interest on money due struct my doorway, and so I patrol here every evening abroad, for freights and insurance, but this cannot be as much as \$64,500,000 in three months. On the theory that the full value of imports is not ascertained, however, the movement of gold would be more easily explained.

DUTIES IN FEBRUARY .- The duties paid at New-York last month amounted to \$12,410,941, and were only \$95,770 less than for the corresponding month last year. This is not because the rate of duty on the same products and classes of goods has not been reduced, but because the character of imwent into effect. In the large item of sugar, too, in this city. What guarantee have we that, under a high portations has largely changed since the new tariff the new mode of ascertaining value and fixing duty by use of the polariscope removes the cause of a vast deal of deception or concealment as to the value of the qualities imported.

On,-During the past month an unusual number of new and large-yielding wells have been opened in the McHenry district, and the monthly report was for that reason the more encouraging to the believers in low prices. The artificial characterof the market was again illustrated, however, by the rapid rise in the price of crude certineates Allen's, Armory Hall and Bowery dives in New York, from about 96 cents to \$1.05 in the face of new wells and an unfavorable mouthly report. Ob- be toucked

viously manipulation controls the price completely But the recent discoveries have some effect upon the minds of those who began to believe last year that the entire oil-bearing territory had at last been pierced and defined. That does not yet appear, But it would be unfortunate for the country if, by partial failure of the supply, the cost of oil should be advanced so far as to bring the product of Russlainto more extensive competition with American oil in Europe.

IRON.-While an increase in the demand for pig iron is noted in the market, and is assured by the starting of several manfacturing establishments that have been idle, the change in prices has been slight. Workmen of the Pittsburg district, who demanded an advance last year, are now substantially unanimous in asking no change in wages. But the general disposition of the manufacturers is said to be to propose some reduction as unavoidable, if it is desired to keep the works in operation.

To MEXICO BY RAIL .-- Within thirty days, it is announced, there will be through rail connection between New-York and Mexico. Of late it has been the fashion to make light of the commercial advantages which rail connection with Mexico will give this country. But it is clear, at all events. that the traffic hitherto has been limited by the defective means of communication, and that the entrance of American enterprise and capital will soon create a vast traffic. It appears that about 2,000 miles of railroad have already been built in Mexico with American capital, and that means a large and constant demand nnon American mines, mills and shops for materials and stock with which to keep these roads in repair. Then, as often as a new road is pushed into a wholly uninhabited region at the worst, it is certain that active men will quickly begin to create new towns and new business there. The same thing will happen in Mexico, and the traffic due to new settlement and new industry and trade will not be inconsiderable.

PERSONAL

Mrs Astor continued to improve yesterday. She converses cheerfully and appeared to be steadily gaining strength.

Mr. Eastman Johnson's oil painting of the Hon. Charles J. Folger has been received at the rooms of the Court of Appeals at Albany and will be placed over the Bench.

The Rev. R. Heber Newton is having serions trouble with his eyes, and is obliged to remain in a darkened room at his home in Garden City. L. I. He has not occupied the pulpit at All Souls' Church for the last two Sundays,

M. Lalande, Deputy or the Gironde, is one of the French statesmen who favor the importation of American park. "Allow me to congratulate you on being a friend of the transatlantic hog," said a caller to him. "Oh. no," he replied; "I am his worst enemy. I would like to kill and eat him."

When Mr. Gladstone prose in the House of Commons to reply to Sir Stafford Northcote in the debate on the vote of censure, he showed himself " in good form" from the very first sentence, clear and firm in voice, animated in manner and emphatic in utterance. Throughout his speech the House was in a state of great excitement, but when after speaking of Gordon and his mission he dropped his olce impressively and went on to announce the formation of a British force at Suakim for the relief of Tokar, says The London Telegraph, "the proverbial pin might have been heard dropping, and at the same time a great load seemed to be lifted off men's hearts. A short but emphatic perforation, demanding acquittal for the Government in the name of justice, finished, amid a roar of Liberal cheers, a speech which had lasted an hour and forty minutes."

TALKS ABOUT TOWN.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WILLS.

T. E. Driggs, lawyer, of Detroit, Michigan .- I drew the riginal bill which was passed a year ago by the Michigan Legislature, providing for the establishment of wills durlaw occurred to me several years ago. There was omitted a clause which I considered very important, providing that the contents of a will should not be required to be made public. It was claimed that it could not be known that a man was improperly influenced unless the contents of the will be made known. But I argued that during a man's lifetime the provisions of his will are matters which concern him alone, and there is a strong repug nance to giving them publicity. Such publication we be apt to create bad feeling, and in cases of gifts to charity would seem like cheap bids for popularity. The question of undue influence is one of fact and is gen erally based on the assumption of a weak mind. If the testator can satisfy the court that he is of thoroughly sound mind, that he knows all about his property and his heirs, a Judge should not require of him to make such dis es. Probably in nine-tenths of the cases that have while the testator was alive, of questioning his capacity to dispose of his property by will or otherwise. I am clear that to make the law of practical value the testator must be protected from disclosing the contents of hi will.

charge of the bill to establish wills now before the Legislature, favors its passage, and I have a letter from him appointing a hearing on the subject. I find an old friend mine, Mr. T. E. Driggs, drew the original Michigan tents a secret. How can a court adjudge a man to be of sound mind in respect to a subject which is kept sealed from the examination of the court! The inspection of the will itself may afford the strongest evidence that the testator in making the instrument was subject to bias, or was insane on a particular point or was fraudulently imposed on. The will may be defee tive in form, repugnant to the statute of trusts, and void generally. As a matter of prodence I should hesitate to offer any bill with such a clause in it; I think it would kill it. The bill in its present shape, providing for publication of the contents of a will, will benefit that class of men who desire not to die intestate and yet have a lot of vagabond relatives who would squander the inheritance as divided by the court. These will take advantage of the law; those who are indifferent or timid can go on as formerly and leave their wills to be the prey of the courts after they are dead and defenceless,

Ex-Judge Amos G. Hull, lowyer .- Mr. Husted, who has

William Down, president of the Bunk of North America.
The present Congress will not take action on the silver uestion, more's the pity. If coinage is kept up our arrency will be transumted into silver, and gold will be come merchandise. The result! A fabulous rate of interest, for one thing. I am a Protectionist 1 Yes, I admit that. Free trade is the semijoent but protection is the first law of nature, or nations, if you will. Or Republican andidates I should favor Arthur and Linco'n or Edmunds

TICKET SPECULATORS.

Charles A. Stevenson manager Third Avenue Theatre. -- Yes, I am a Deputy Sheriff now. Recently appointed. special duty only. And I am doing it presty thoroughly I famey. I have been terribly annoyed by the ticket speculators here. Whenever we have a big attraction the appear in such numbers as to up a indisance; and as cater at popular prices to people who cannot afford the imposition of large premiums for the best seats. I an com-pelled in their interest as well as my own to drive them with my badge well displayed and order their oil as trespassets. As a rule they so quietly, knowing they have no right. They go off to some distance and try to do business there, but their lot is not a bappy one. I would refuse to sell to them if I knew that they were buying to sell again, but that I can't determine for myself beforehand.

FROM A LIQUOR DEALER'S POINT OF VIEW. John Cacanagh, liquor dealer and vice-president of the Relati Liquor Dealers' Association. Our position on the high license question is simple. The respectable deal and do not object to paying \$1,000 or even more for their licenses, but they want their rights, if they have any protected. Now, there are nearly 2,000 unlicensed groups own opinion is that just as many liquor stores would be open, and that we wno pay the liceuse and keep respectable houses would suffer. If our business is legitimate, protect us. If it is thegitimate, wipe us out altogether, No class in the community is more eager to see the disrep utable dives put down than the law-abiding liquor dealers. One suggestion I might make. Let a clause be added to the present statute forbidding the sale of liquor is any place where a musical performance of any description is given, unless a special license be granted by the Mayor. This would effectually close up all the Empires, "The" while respectable places, such as the Casino, would as